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**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL**

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**TO:**

**Name:** Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Group Art Unit 3772/Examiner Michael Brown

**Firm:** U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

**Fax No.:** 571-273-8300

**Subject:** U.S. Patent Application No. 09/497,590

Gary Karlin Michelson

Filed: June 6, 2000

APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD MEMBER  
HAVING A PASSAGE WITH A NON-CIRCULAR  
CROSS SECTION FOR PROVIDING PROTECTED  
ACCESS TO THE SPINE (as amended)

Attorney Docket No. 101.0044-03000

Customer No. 22882

Confirmation No.: 7688

**FROM:**

**Name:** Thomas H. Martin, Esq.

**Phone No.:** 330-877-2277

**No. of Pages (including this):** 12

**Date:** May 17, 2007

**Confirmation Copy to Follow:** NO

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**Message:****CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that the attached Transmittal Form (in duplicate) and Amendment with 2 annotated sheets of drawings and 2 new sheets of drawings are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 17, 2007.



Sandra L. Blackmon

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